



News Release

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Washington's Living Will Registry ends after nearly four years

Budget has no funding for program in which almost 2,500 took part

OLYMPIA — When June comes to a close, so will the Washington State Living Will Registry's acceptance of health care directives from Washington residents. The 2011-2013 state budget doesn't include funding for the registry, so the program is ending.

The Department of Health launched the registry in November 2007 as a statewide online database for Washington residents to store their health care directives. That included documents such as living wills, durable powers of attorney for health care, or physician orders for life-sustaining treatment (often called "do not resuscitate" orders). By registering their health care directives, Washingtonians could document in advance their end-of-life treatment preferences. Health care providers could access these directives through the online registry in the event their patient was incapacitated or could no longer communicate.

Since the registry was launched, 2,462 Washington residents submitted health care directives and 186 health care facilities signed up to have access to these directives.

People who registered with the state's registry by the June 20, 2011, cutoff date will maintain a free lifetime registration with U.S. Living Will Registry, a private corporation. They'll still be able to access and change their health care directives, and to update their contact information. Health care providers will still be able to access health care directives for these people through U.S. Living Will Registry. The Department of Health is no longer accepting any new registrations for the Living Will Registry.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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